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FM AMEMBASSY ABUJA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6938  
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY 0175  
RUEHNM/AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY 0207  
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 2066  
RUEHYD/AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY 1019  
RUEHOS/AMCONSUL LAGOS PRIORITY 1900  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0418  
RHMFSS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE PRIORITY  
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEAAIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHMFSS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY  
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABUJA 001613

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/W, INR/AA;  
ADDIS ABABA FOR U.S. MISSION TO AU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/31/2017

TAGS: PGOV PREL PHUM KDEM AU GV NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIA: ECOWAS PRESIDENT "EXTREMELY CONCERNED" BY  
GUINEAN POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: STATE 89113 (NOTAL)

Classified By: Political Counselor James P. McAnulty  
for reasons in Sections 1.4. (B) and (D)

¶1. (U) POLCOUNS, accompanied by POLOFFS, delivered demarche on Guinean elections (REFTEL) to Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) President Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas during an introductory call on August 28. POLCOUNS urged ECOWAS support for free, fair, and transparent elections without further delay and with sufficient budgetary support.

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ECOWAS "EXTREMELY CONCERNED"  
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¶2. (C) Dr. Chambas fully agreed with the U.S. position, expressing "extreme concern" over recent political developments in Guinea. He assured POLCOUNS that "We are on the same page with you." Recalling earlier Contact Group efforts to press for fair elections, he noted that the group would visit Conakry again shortly. He warned that, while junta leader Captain Dadis Camara said he convened the Ad Hoc Committee on Elections to "clean up" constitutional clauses prejudicial to Guinean democracy, Camara now demonstrated "different intentions." He expressed concern over the region's recent return to a cycle of military coups, despite international attention and involvement. The ECOWAS President called for the international community to "stand firm" in pressing for credible, transparent elections in which the junta should not serve both as "player" and "referee."

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"CIVILIAN COUP" IN NIGER  
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¶3. (C) Dr. Chambas expressed serious concern about recent developments in neighboring Niger, where President Mamadou Tadja had effectively conducted a "civilian coup d'etat" by attempting to perpetuate his rule under a new Constitution that "totally breached" the old one. He opined that Niger would serve as a "first test" of international resolve, with the junta in Guinea watching developments there closely.

MCCULLOUGH